



New Jersey Department of Children and Families Policy Manual

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Level of Care Rates

3-1-99

Resource parents receive payment on a monthly basis to compensate for expenses incurred related to the care provided to children placed in their home. See the [Level of Care Rate Table](#) for the listing of current level of care rates.

Level of Care Rate A

3-1-99

When a child enters resource care or changes resource homes, an assessment is completed using a standard set of questions that are automated to produce the base level of care rate (Level A) the resource parent will receive. Level of Care Rate A is based on the age of the child in one of four age categories: under 5 years old; 6-9 years old; 10-12 years old; and 13 years of age and older. Level of Care Rate A covers housing, food, transportation, personal items and entertainment.

The computerized assessment program calculates the level of care rate and generates a Resource Family Rate Agreement, CP&P Form [5-8a](#) that displays the Level of Care Rate. The initial assessment is completed on or about the 30th day after a child enters resource care. When a child moves from one resource home to another or when the level of care can be determined, the assessment can be done earlier in the placement if appropriate.

Level of Care Rates B, C, and D

12-22-2003

Level of Care Rates B, C and D are rates which exceed the base level of care rate (Level A). They are linked to the number of hours the resource parent is willing to provide additional or special care for a child based on the needs of the child that are above and beyond what is typically expected for a child of that age. If the level of care rate as calculated by the computerized rate assessment application is B, C or D, then the contract generated will display the activities/services the resource parent agrees to perform or provide for the child, in addition to the rate.

Since the resource parents develop primary knowledge about the child's behavior and related needs, the Worker and resource parents mutually assess the child's characteristics using the Resource Family Rate Assessment, CP&P Form [5-8](#). The identified need of the child and the services the resource parent is willing to provide is the basis for the approved level of care rate. If it is determined that a level of care rate will exceed the base level of care (Level A), the Worker discusses it with the immediate Supervisor. The Supervisor indicates his/her approval or disapproval on CP&P Form [5-8a](#) and submits the form to the LO Manager or his/her designee for approval.

The LO Manager makes the final determination regarding any level of care rate exceeding the base level of care rate. The LO Manager or designee indicates his/her approval or disapproval on CP&P Form [5-8a](#) and returns the form to the Supervisor.

When a level of care rate exceeding the base level of care is recommended, page 2 of CP&P Form [5-8a](#), is submitted along with page one to the LO Manager for approval based upon the conditions identified in the Resource Family Rate Assessment.

The Level of Care Rates above the base (Level A) are as follows:

- Level B- \$50 added to the base rate;
- Level C- \$100 added to the base rate; and
- Level D - \$150 added to the base rate.

The effective date of the level of care rate beyond the base is the date the assessment is completed.

If the circumstances of a child placed in a resource home changes significantly, possibly warranting an increase in the level of care rate, a reassessment may be requested by the resource parent or the Worker at that particular point in time.

At a minimum, each child placed in a resource home, at Level of Care Rate A, B, C or D has an assessment completed at least once every six months. The assessment does not include payments that are provided separately for clothing, medical care or child care.

The current level of care rate is documented on CP&P Form [26-52](#), Contact Sheet as well as in the following:

- For resource care - CP&P Form [26-81](#), Case Plan Assessment.
- level of care rate is reviewed by the Worker and Supervisor as necessary.

Clothing

12-19-2011

Each child being placed in resource care must have adequate clothing appropriate to his/her needs, and a basic wardrobe for the child is maintained throughout his/her temporary placement.

A new placement or change in placement does not in itself warrant the issuing of a clothing allowance. Each time a child enters or changes a placement, an inventory of the child's clothing is taken. When it is determined that a need for additional clothing exists, a Special Approval Request, CP&P Form [16-76](#), is completed and submitted to the Local Office Manager for approval.

The check is issued to the resource parent or the Worker. The requested amount of the clothing check is determined as a result of the clothing inventory, but shall not be in excess of the maximum initial allotment specified, based on the child's age at any one time. If the Worker is unable to take an inventory, he/she estimates the amount of clothing needed for the immediate future.

Initial and special clothing checks are issued from the Local Office Bank Account. See [CP&P-IX-F-1-300](#).

Sets of clothing (layettes) to have on hand in the office for infants being placed in resource care directly from the hospital may be purchased. Each layette usually consists of the following items:

- receiving blanket;
- undershirts;
- diapers or pampers;
- sweater set; and
- a sleeper set.

Checks for the initial purchase of layettes are issued from the LO Bank Account in an amount not to exceed the maximum allowed for infants. To ensure that each child in resource care continues to have adequate clothing appropriate to his/her needs, a per diem clothing allowance is issued to the resource parent and included in the monthly check. For guidelines regarding clothing allotments for a child in independent living, see [CP&P-VI-A-1-101](#), section G).

The LOBA Fund may be utilized to purchase luggage for the purposes of packing an infant's possessions and moving them from the hospital setting to the resource family home. A child's possessions should never be transported in large plastic bags, except in an emergency, when no immediate alternative container is available. See [CP&P-IX-F-1-300](#), section titled Purchase Luggage for Transporting a Child's Clothing.